

rural communities, and the success of all of Alaska—from its economy, to its lands, and the issues everyday families talked about over dinner. Rough around the edges at times, that is the way he wanted to be. That is just who he was. Like the vast and wild State he represented, Don was never one to back down from what he believed. Again and again, he put in the work to get things done.

Beyond his words, his accomplishments, his work, Don was genuine. All you had to do was to sit down with him in his office and understand how he had a story for almost everything, from his time in the Yukon River on tugboats, to hunting, to just enjoying life and his family. He was genuine. He was real. And more than anything else, he was my friend. I will miss him deeply. We always miss good people like that, people that really have an impact on our lives personally and the lives of people that he represented and the lives of his family. He was a good, real person.

Last fall, I shook hands on a friendly wager with Don for Alaska's Katmai National Park's Fat Bear Week. I never had that type of a bet with Don before, and I didn't know much about bears. We agreed with each other that whichever Congressman chose the bear that went further in the annual competition he would win a district product from the other's home district. And when my bear won—well, obviously, I was surprised. Don told me that I would never have a chance of winning at all because I knew nothing about bears, but I got lucky. And he smiled, as only Don could do. Don was true to his word. He brought me back a jar of smoked salmon from Alaska.

Yesterday, I joined Members on both sides of the aisle as we paid our respects to his life and legacy in the Capitol. I could tell a lot of stories about Don, but when I was a freshman here, I went to him—he had this unique ability to work on Native American issues—and I said to him, I have a little bit of a problem here with some issue in trying to find some votes. We sat and talked for a while. He said, give me a few minutes. And the next thing you knew, about 5 minutes later, he came back, and he said, Well, you have got your votes. Let's get this thing passed.

As the dean of the House, Don set an example for all of us to follow: Respecting one another; honoring one another; working with one another. I was honored to work across the aisle from him to uplift the Tribal communities, our rural communities, and often-overlooked States. He was so passionate about rural America. He was so passionate about the quality of life that he had up in Alaska. He went back there each and every time, back and forth because of his love for his State.

Madam Speaker, today, my thoughts are with his wife Anne, his children, and with the State of Alaska, who have lost an advocate and a giant.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, President Biden released a budget proposal calling for the highest sustained level of government spending in American history.

Unfortunately, despite record-high inflation caused by his administration's reckless and out-of-control spending, President Biden's budget request fails to fight inflation and leaves our military woefully unprepared if enacted as is. Instead, it uses budget tricks and misguided projections, combined with already-expiring spending programs, to forecast an unrealistic decrease in the deficit, all while raising taxes.

In fact, the White House assumed inflation would only be 2.3 percent for this year when, in reality, the actual inflation rate is running at 7.9 percent. Furthermore, they used an extremely low interest rate forecast, even though the Federal Reserve recently raised interest rates and signaled more rate increases would be on the way. Worst of all, they take credit for the temporary spending programs used to combat the pandemic that are already set to expire and are calling it a spending cut.

The only explanation for such drastic errors and misguided messaging is that the Biden administration intentionally wanted to mislead the American people and save face for a failed first year of one-party Democratic control. It is absurd that President Biden thinks he can pull the wool over the American people's eyes and fool them into thinking he has taken the issues of inflation, the debt, and the deficit seriously.

But we know that is not the case because President Biden and Congressional Democrats spent trillions of tax dollars during the first year of complete Democratic control to enact their ultra-leftwing agenda and satisfy their so-called progressive base, resulting in an increase in inflation every month President Biden has been in office.

Even after a year of record spending on unnecessary social programs and burdensome environmental regulations that terminate American jobs and make us reliant on foreign energy, the President did not learn his lesson. His budget proposal spends billions of dollars on Green New Deal initiatives while doing everything possible to eliminate the American oil and gas industry.

The worst part of President Biden's bloated budget is what it means for America's Armed Services. If we want the future of our military to be as strong as our current military then, at the very least, it would need to be funded at the same level of inflation. Instead, military spending only increases by 4 percent, well below the current level of 7.9 percent and future projections.

□ 1115

Amid an active land war in Europe, President Biden's budget would shrink the Active-Duty Army to just 473,000 troops. That would leave the service at its smallest size since 1940.

Before releasing his budget, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told the President that inflation would make it difficult to buy the ships that the Navy needs to continue to develop new weapons and to pay our troops at a fair wage. Apparently, the President didn't listen.

How can we expect to compete with China and other adversaries if we are decreasing the size and strength of our military and are unable to fund the research for new weapons? We simply cannot.

It has become apparent that President Biden's White House has adopted a uniform policy when combating inflation. If you close your eyes, cover your ears, plug your nose, and bite your tongue, inflation ceases to exist. We know that is not the case.

Madam Speaker, I have repeatedly called on the President to unleash America's energy independence, reign in government spending, eliminate the burdensome taxes and regulations on job-creating industries and families, and return to the policies that put America first.

Thankfully, Congress will decide what to spend for the sake of our constituents, for our children, and those that follow after them. Let's hope we can come together and pass a budget that puts the brakes on inflation and prevents our country from driving off a fiscal cliff.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, blessed is the one who trusts in You, whose confidence is in You. We ask Your blessing then on the people of Ukraine, who hold fast to the hope of Your deliverance.

Grant the Ukrainian spirit of resilience and righteousness success as that of David over Goliath. May their faithfulness be the weapon that confounds the reach of the enemy. May their trust in You assure their survival.